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TELEGRAM

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EXCISE

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ACTION EA-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-13 EUR-20 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-04 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 UPW-01 CU-04 RSR-01 /108 W

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O R 301100Z MAY 70 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 945  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY DJAKARTA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
USMISSION UN  
CINCPAC 224  
DIA WASHDC  
RHMSMVA/COMJSMACV  
SEVENTH AIR FORCE  
RHMUABA/SEVENTH/THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Fukley DATE 10/5/80  
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD AND J-2

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

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SUBJECT: CAMBODIA SIT REP

1. WEEKLY NOTE. DURING PAST WEEK DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION UNMARKED BY ANY NOTEWORTHY ACTIVITY. TOWARD END OF WEEK THERE WERE REPORTS FROM BORDER AREAS THAT GOC HAS FINALLY BEGUN TO REINSTALL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS IN AREAS WHERE VC/NVNA FORCED TO LEAVE DUE US/ARVN ACTIONS. TO DATE GOC EFFORTS APPEAR CONCENTRATED IN AREAS SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH. (US/ARVN UNITS PREVIOUSLY STATED THEY UNABLE LOCATE LOCAL OFFICIALS WHO HAD APPARENTLY DISAPPEARED INTO COUNTRYSIDE.) LOCAL FALLOUT FROM NEAR RE-ESTABLISHMENT GOC/GVN RELATIONS HAS BEEN WILLINGNESS BY SOME VIETNAMESE IN CAMPS IN CAPITAL TO LEAVE AND TO TRY TO RETURN TO HOMES AND JOBS. EXTERNAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY MARKED BY VISIT OF THAI DELEGATIONS AND VISIT TO SAIGON BY GOC DELEGATION. AID AND TRADE DISCUSSED IN BOTH CASES, BUT DIMENSIONS STILL UNCLEAR. MILITARILY, VC/NVNA HAVE SHOWN CAPABILITY TO REGROUP TO HARRASS AREAS WHERE US/ARVN ACTIONS HAD FORCED DISPERSAL. LARGE NUMBER VC/NVNA IN PREK KAK AREA NORTH OF KOMPONG CHAM POST THREAT TO WESTERN KOMPONG CHAM PROVINCE AND SOUTHERN KOMPONG THOM PROVINCE. IN LATTER AREA VC/NVA ALREADY ACTIVE AND HAVE CUT MAIN ROAD FROM SOUTH TO PROVINCIAL CAPITAL. IN NORTHEAST CAMBODIANS STILL HANGING ON IN TWO AREAS OF RATTANAKIRI PROVINCE.

2. MARTIAL LAW. MARTIAL LAW GOES INTO EFFECT TOMORROW, BUT NO ONE STILL HAS ANY CLEAR INDICATION OF IMPLICATIONS. SOURCE REPORTED THAT DECLARATION MADE EARLY IN EFFORT TO FORESTALL RUMORED STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST SOUTH VIETNAMESE FOR ALLEGED LOOTING, ETC., BY GVN TROOPS. IN THIS REGARD THERE HAS BEEN

NOTICEABLE FALL-OFF OF RUMORS ABOUT SUCH MISBEHAVIOR.

3. GOC TO SEND GROUP TO US TO EXPLAIN CAMBODIA'S SITUATION. EMBOFF TOLD BY KEUK Y LIM, POLITICAL AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN IN PRIMINS OFFICE (AND DEPUTY FROM SIEM REAP), THAT GOC HAS DECIDED TO SEND FOUR PEOPLE TO THE US TO TRAVEL THROUGH SOME OF MAJOR CITIES. PURPOSE WILL BE TO TRY TO EXPLAIN CAMBODIA'S PLIGHT. KEUN Y LIM INDICATED HE WOULD BE MEMBER OF TEAM IN ADDITION TO THREE OTHER YOUNG "INTELLECTUALS" WHO RECEIVED THEIR EDUCATION IN THE US AND SPEAK ENGLISH FLUENTLY.

4. TEAM EXPECTS TO LEAVE WITHIN 10-15 DAYS AND PLANS TO VISIT

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WASHINGTON, NEW YORK, CHICAGO AND SAN FRANCISCO. FURTHER DETAILS BY SEPTTEL AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

5. STATUS OF SON NGOC THANH IN GOC. EMBOFF TOOK OCCASION IN CONVERSATION WITH KUEK Y LIM MAY 29 TO ASK ABOUT LOCAL NEWSPAPER ARTICLE THAT REPORTED SON NGOC THANH NAMED AS ADVISER TO GOC AND THAT THE KHMER SEREI CUM "NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT" HAS BEEN DISSOLVED WITH ALL ASSETS TURNED OVER TO THE GOC. KEUK Y LIM SAID, AFTER CHECKING, THAT ACCORDING TO HIS SOURCES, SON NGOC THANH HAD NO OFFICIAL NOR UNOFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOC AND THAT HE WAS NOT IN CAMBODIA. KEUK Y LIM SAID THAT THE "NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT" APPEARED TO BE FIGMENT OF LOCAL NEWSPAPER EDITOR'S IMAGINATION AND HAD NO BASIS IN FACT. COMMENT: EMBASSY AGREES THE "NLF" WAS CONCEIVED TO DIE, ALTHOUGH FACT THAT AKP PUBLISHED DECLARATION GAVE IT CERTAIN LEGITIMACY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

6. INTERVIEW WITH SIRIK MATAK. AKP PUBLISHED SIRIK MATAK INTERVIEW WITH REPORTER FROM FAR WESTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW. SIRIK MATAK SAID THAT

IT WAS TOO SOON TO SAY WHAT WILL BE THE FORM OF THE NEXT GOVT AND THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE IS PRESENTLY STUDYING THE DRAFT OF A NEW CONSTITUTION. SIRIK MATAK REITERATED CAMBODIA'S POLICY OF NEUTRALITY AND NON-ALIGNMENT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT CAMBODIA IS CONSIDERING RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN, SIRIK MATAK SAID "FOR THE MOMENT, RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE AND EVEN DESIRABLE BECAUSE OF OUR STATUS AS A NEUTRAL COUNTRY." HE NOTED THAT RELATIONS WITH FRANCE CONTINUE NORMALLY AND THAT RELATIONS WITH THE GREAT POWERS REMAIN GOOD EXCEPT, OF COURSE, FOR COMMUNIST CHINA. SIRIK MATAK SAID CAMBODIA WISHED FRIENDLY RELATIONS "WITH ALL COUNTRIES WHETHER THEY BE COMMUNIST BLOC, SOCIALIST, NEUTRAL, OR OF THE FREE WORLD." SIRIK MATAK ANSWERED, "NO" TO QUESTION WHETHER CAMBODIAN WAS CONSIDERING JOINING ASEAN OR ASPAC. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO WHETHER CAMBODIA WOULD BE OBLIGED TO ASK FOR FOREIGN TROOPS IF MILITARY SITUATION CONTINUES TO BE SERIOUS, SIRIK MATAK ANSWERED "YES, WE HAVE ALREADY MADE AN APPEAL FOR TROOPS FROM FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. BUT WE ALWAYS INSIST ON MATERIEL FOR OUR YOUNG ARMY".

7. SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDENTS' SUPPORT. THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT CONFERENCE HAS ADOPTED A RESOLUTION DEMANDING

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STRICT OBSERVANCE OF NEUTRALITY, ETC., OF CAMBODIA AND EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR THE PLIGHT OF ITS CAMBODIAN BROTHERS TO MAINTAIN NEUTRALITY. IN ADDITION, THE COUNCIL OF STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA, HAS PASSED A SIMILAR RESOLUTION. GOC SENT STUDENT DELEGATION TO THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CONFERENCE WHICH WAS HELD IN BANDUNG, INDONESIA, IN EARLY MAY AND IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THEIR EFFORTS HAVE ACHIEVED SOME RESULTS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

8. MILITARY. BRIEFER NOTED MAY 30 THAT VC/NVA FORCES FIGHTING WITHIN PREY VENG TOWN, WITHDREW DURING NIGHT SUFFERING 50 KILLED. FRIENDLY FORCES COUNTED 4 KILLED AND 41 WOUNDED.

9. STUNG TRENG AND KRATIE IN NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS STILL UNDER ENEMY CONTROL.

10. BRIEFER ALSO NOTED THAT ENEMY STILL CONTINUES FOR THIRD DAY TO HOLD DISTRICT TOWN OF TAING KRASAING IN KOMPONG THOM PROVINCE.

11. MILITARY COMMUNIQUE CHARACTERIZED SITUATION IN KAMPOT AND TAKEO AND VICINITY AROUND PHNOM DEN, KOMPONG TRACH AND TUK MEAS AS "RETURNING TO NORMAL" WITH REINSTALLATION OF CAMBODIAN AUTHORITIES.

12. COMMUNIQUE ALSO NOTES INTERCEPTION MAY 26 OF ENEMY SAPPER UNIT NEAR THE PHOSPHATE FACTORY AT TUK MEAS IN KAMPOT. ENEMY ESCAPED LEAVING ONE DEAD PLUS 500 ELECTRIC DETONATORS, 75 RECOILLESS RIFLES, A 12.7 MM MACHINE GUN, 82 MM MORTAR AND AS WELL AS A B-41 ROCKET LAUNCHER.

13. AT KIRIROM, KOMPONG SPEU PROVINCE, FRIENDLY PATROL CLASHED WITH AN ENEMY FORCE ON MAY 24 WHICH RESULTED IN 8 ENEMY DEAD, AND RECOVERY OF 4 WEAPONS. FRIENDLY PATROL SUFFERED 3 WOUNDED.

14. IN KOMPONG CHAM PROVINCE, DURING NIGHT OF MAY 28-29 ENEMY ATTACKED HEAVILY FRIENDLY POST OF PREK KAK. PRESSURE EASED BY FRIENDLY TAC AIR.  
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O R 301100Z MAY 70 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 948  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY DJAKARTA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
USMISSION UN  
CINCPAC 226  
DIA WASHDC  
RHSMVA/COMUSMACV  
SEVENTH AIR FORCE  
RHMUABA/SEVENTH/THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE

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15. COMMUNIQUE STATES LABANSHIEK, RATTANAKIRI PROVINCE RECEIVED  
ENEMY ATTACKS DURING NIGHT MAY 28-29. 8 ENEMY BODIES FOUND  
AFTER THE ACTION AND AN ESTIMATED 50 DEAD AND WOUNDED CARRIED OFF.

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FRIENDLY SIDE SUFFERED 6 KILLED.

6. DURING EARLY HOURS MAY 27, SVAY TANI, KANDAL PROVINCE MORTARED KUSING TWO WOUNDED. FRIENDLY COUNTER BATTERY FIRE APPARENTLY KILLED 10 ENEMY, WHOSE BODIES LATER FOUND BY SWEEP FORCES.

7. COMMUNIQUE ALSO NOTED THAT VC ARE SPREADING STORIES TO EFFECT THAT 150 BODIES FOUND IN THE AREA OF TONLE TOCH FOLLOWING THE CLASHES AT PEAM KRABAS AND PREK PHKOAM MAY 25, ARE CAMBODIANS. BODIES WERE IN FACT THOSE OF THE ENEMY KILLED BY AIRSTRIKES.

18. ENEMY IN SOUTHERN PROVINCES, ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, IS AVOIDING COMBAT SYSTEMATICALLY AND APPEARS TO BE SHORT OF FOOD AND AMMUNITION.

19. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: EYEWITNESSES TO NVNA AT PREK KAK.

AFP DISPATCH REPORTS EYEWITNESS REPORT OF ARRIVAL AND PASSAGE OF NVNA TROOPS AT PREK KAK PLANTATION. ACCORDING TO REPORT, "THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF WELL ARMED AND HEAVILY LADEN NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS

PASSED THROUGH PLANTATION WHICH HAS BEEN OCCUPIED SINCE MAY 25 BY COMMUNIST FORCES WHO MASSACRED SOME 50 CAMBODIAN PROVINCIAL GUARDS." FORCES, APPARENTLY HEADING NORTH, "CONSTITUTE THE HEAVIEST CONCENTRATION OF COMMUNIST TROOPS SEEN IN CAMBODIA SINCE THE BEGINNING OF MILITARY OPERATIONS AT THE END OF MARCH." WITNESS STATED THAT TROOPS, "INCONTESTABLY REGULAR NORTH VIETNAMESE AND NOT VIET CONG. THE MEN WORE THE OLIVE GREEN UNIFORMS OF HANOI AND WERE TYPICAL NVNA HELMETS. THEY SEEMED IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION. CERTAIN OF THEM PUSHED BICYCLES WITH MORTARS OR CANNONS PLACED ON THEM, FOLLOWING A TECHNIQUE ALREADY USED IN 1954 DURING THE PERIOD OF DIEN BIEN PHU." THE WITNESSES WERE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY CAMBODIAN RALLIERS TO SIHANOUK AMONG THE TROOPS. COOLIES AND PORTERS WERE FOR THE MOST PART VIET CONG FROM SOUTH VIETNAMESE OR VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS FROM CAMBODIA RECRUITED BY THE COMMUNISTS. END UNCLASSIFIED. COMMENT: EYEWITNESSES WERE UNDOUBTEDLY FRENCHMEN WHO ESCAPED FROM PLANTATION.

20. LOCAL PRESS. KHMER EKREACH (INDEPENDENT KHMER) NOTES IN ITS EDITORIAL MAY 30 THAT MARTIAL LAW IS APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO SEE THAT MARTIAL LAW DOES NOT PERMIT GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION.

21. PRAJOCH KHMER ASKS IN ITS EDITORIAL THAT PEOPLE NOT BE MISLED.

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BY VC PROPAGANDA. THE PAPER SAYD IT MUST BE REMEMBERED TSAT SIHANOUK WAS NOT OVERTHROWN TO PERMIT ANOTHER FORM OF CORRUPTION AND THAT THE NATION CANNOT BE REVULT IN A FEW MONTHS.

22. BATTAMBONG COMMANDO OPERATIONS. IN WHAT IS APPARENTLY LOCAL DEFENSE OPERATION, GROUP OF CIVIL SERVANTS, STUDENTS AND INHABITANTS OF AREAS EAST AND SOUTH OF BATTAMBANG TOWN IN BATTAMBANG PROVINCE HAVE BEGUN OPERATIONS. GROUP IS ARMED AND HAS AS MISSION, IN ADDITION TO MILITARY OPERATIONS, TO MEET WITH POPULATION, TO EXPLAIN THE PRESENT SITUATION AND THE REASONS FOR CAMBODIA'S FIGHT AGAINST THE VC/NVNA INVADERS.

23. ALERT INSTRUCTIONS. PHNOM PENH SPECIAL MILITARY REGION HAS ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN CASE OF ALERT. ALERT APPARENTLY REFERS TO POSSIBILITY OF ENEMY GROUND ATTACK, BECAUSE INHABITANTS ARE TO CLOSE AND LOCK DOORS AND WINDOWS TO PREVENT ENEMY ENTRY. POPULATION ADVISED THAT SERIES OF PRACTICE ALERTS WILL BE HELD SHORTLY.  
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